

## CONDENSED CLASSICS

### THE MASTER OF BALLANTRAE

By ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

Condensation by James R. Conroy



Robert Louis Stevenson was born of cultured parents, Nov. 13, 1850, in Edinburgh, Scotland. From infancy his health was delicate. His schooling was therefore desultory, but he early adored the tales and poems read to him by his devoted nurse, Alison Cunningham, and so began the passion for literature which dominated his life. His father, Thomas Stevenson, an able civil engineer, desired Louis to follow his profession, but after more than three years' study he abandoned it. He next read law to please his father, but he genuinely cared only for writing.

Perhaps no figure in literature is more loved for sheer valiance of spirit than Robert Louis Stevenson. He contended all his life against disease with high courage and dauntless gaiety. In France and California, in the Adirondacks and the South Sea Islands, he pursued the will of the wind, health, which always eluded him. From 1890 to his death in 1894, his wife was a source of strength and inspiration; yet called from friends he suffered physical pain and weary disappointment. Much of his best work was written in bed. Nevertheless in 17 years he produced four volumes of essays, seven romances, five collections of fantastic tales, two of South Sea yarns, three of poetry, five volumes of travel and topography, one of political history, and left material for several posthumous works. "Treasure Island" is perhaps the best loved of his romances. Stevenson said: "If this don't fetch the kids, why, they have gone rotten since my time. And again, as he wrote it, 'it's awful fun, boys' stories; you just indulge the pleasure of your heart, that's all.'"

**T**HE Duries of Ballantrae were a strong family in Scotland from the days of David I. Their ups and downs I pass over, to come to that year 1745 when the foundations of this tragedy were laid.

There was my lord, studious, tactful and retired from the world. There was the master (James in baptism) with his father's love of study; but what was tact in the father changed to black dissimulation in him. Though ever in broils, invariably he left his partners in mischief to pay the piper. The second son, Mr. Henry, was neither able nor bad; an out-of-doors, solid sort, who had had an active hand from a boy in the management of the estate. In the house also was Miss Alison Graeme, an orphan, comely and self-willed, heiress to a fortune and, because of my lord's necessities, pledged in marriage to the master.

Then came the uprising for Prince Charlie. Against the wishes of the other three the master elected to ride with the prince; which left Mr. Henry to take King George's side, this being a common policy of great houses in that day. So the master rode to the North. Then came the word of Culloden and the master's death. After a decent time Mr. Henry, to preserve the estate, married Miss Alison, although he no more than any other doubted her love for the master's memory.

But the master was not dead. He had escaped to sea, his escape being not to his credit. At sea he was captured by a pirate ship. By the most ingenious devilry he secured the treasure of the pirate ship as she was about to fall into the hands of a king's cruiser, and escaped with it to the swamps on the American shore. One man he took to guide him out of the swamp, and dirked him to death after they were safely clear of it. Thence he continued his march to French Canada, although forced on the way to hide his treasure in the wilderness. This we learned from a Colonel Burke, an Irish soldier of fortune, who came in the night to plead money for the support of the master, who was then in France.

There was a letter from the master which threw Mr. Henry in a passion. "He calls me a ruggard dog!" he cried. "But if I ruin the estate I shall stuff him, the blood-sucker! And all this I foresaw when he elected himself and not me to go with Prince Charlie."

The gap made in our accounts by the master's demands became a sore embarrassment. As steward of the estate I must needs ride to Edinburgh and there raise new loans on hard terms to keep old ones afloat; and this held for seven years, Mr. Henry shavering everything to the last farthing to raise more money, and yet more money; winning for himself thereby no better title than miser with the countryside as well as at home; for never a word of this business did he even tell to the old lord or Mrs. Henry, it being the devilish malice of the master to require this secrecy and the loyal nature of his brother to comply.

The odium attaching to Mr. Henry and the knowledge, which came to me, that the master all this time had also a pension from the Scotch fund in Paris, became too great a burden for me. I took it on myself to tell Mrs. Henry how her husband had already sent 7,000 to the master. Thereafter no

further money was sent abroad, and the telling did much to check a widening rift between Mr. Henry and my lady, a great joy to me.

This action resulted in the master's return to us, a great curse to the household; for in all matters of contention, though Mr. Henry might be right, the master had the trick of setting him in the wrong. He still demanded money, and, to satisfy him the entail was broken and a great piece of land sold; and all the while he ceased not to lay siege to the heart of Mrs. Henry, carrying it on so deftly that I scarce knew if she was aware of it herself, she whom I doubt not still loved him.

This brings me to the night when he laid the most unbearable of insults on Mr. Henry. "I never knew a woman," said the master, "who did not prefer me, nor—I think—who did not continue to prefer me to you." At which Mr. Henry coldly struck him on the mouth.

"A blow!" cried the master. "I will not take a blow from God Almighty! I must have blood for this!"

They fought beyond the shrubbery I bringing the candles for them. From the first Mr. Henry showed himself the stronger, which so surprised and confused the master that he tried foul play, but got only the length of Mr. Henry's sword through the body. He fell, apparently lifeless.

Mr. Henry shook with sobs. I led him into the house, and told the old lord and my lady; but going back to bring in the body, I found it gone. A good riddance, I thought, whether dead or alive, but the night's work threw Mr. Henry into a fever, and his mind was never again the same clear mind as of old.

The old lord died, and to my lady and Mr. Henry, now my lord, was born a boy, and to that boy my lord became a slave, which had not been so with his first child, Katherine. He would pass by his wife as though she were a dog before the hearth to come at the boy. Without doubt this was in the nature of a judgment on my lady, she who had been so cold so many years to every mark of his tenderness; but to me it was monstrous, and I was emboldened much as I loved him, to say so; but my saying so only served to send my lord sick to bed and to earn for me from my lord the word that I was no better than an old maid.

This brings me to that morning in April 1764, that the master returned to us again, this time with an Indian servant. With his return my lord and lady, I urging them on, took ship for New York, where my lady had property through her father. This voyage so I thought, will at one stroke rid them of the master and weave them closer together.

Twenty days it took the master to learn where they had gone; whereupon he also sailed for New York, and I on the same ship, praying that she would go down, even with myself with her, if it would but take the master also. I looked forward with woe to the day he should set foot in New York; but our ship was a slow saller, and other ships which sailed later arrived before us; so it happened that my lord had word of the master's coming and prepared for him. There was suspicion of more than one murder, it seems, to the master's hand during the earlier stay he made in America, and so now he found it a better business to leave New York and hunt in the wilderness for that treasure which he had buried so many years before.

At this time all the evil the master had done seemed borne in a flood upon my lord's brain. He became moody and took to drink. There has been talk that he connived with the crew which the master had hired for his expedition, bribing the leaders to make way with his brother. There is no evidence of that, but it is true that the master's Indian servant to save his life, as he said, did bury him alive, with the intent to resurrect and restore him later by the agency of some secret oriental trick.

My lord and a party, I being of it, followed the master, and it was when the East Indian was lifting his body from the grave that we came upon them. I thought for a moment that the eyelids fluttered. Others say that the lips strove to speak, that his teeth showed through his beard, which may have been, for I was busy elsewhere, for at the first disclosure of the dead man's eyes, my lord had fallen to the ground. When I raised him he was a corpse.

I buried him there; my lady laid an equal stone to each; and there where they died, side by side, they lie to this day.

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**Water Telescope Finds Missing Body.** Miss Emily McCarthy, a nurse of Meriden, Conn., disappeared and her hat was found in Black pond, indicating that she had drowned, probably by wading into the water in the dark and becoming confused.

Every effort to find the body by dragging failed, so Scout Executive John D. Roberts made a water telescope from a keg with a glass bottom. Holding this over the side of a boat and peering into the depths of the pond, the body of the missing nurse was finally seen and brought ashore.—Boy Scout Bulletin.

**In Ye Stone Age.** John Dinosaur—What's that poor fellow jumping around with so much glee for?

Eddie Stonehatchet—He sent a new poem to the editor of the Stone Age Gazette and the letter dropped on the editor's foot.

## Salvation Army Will Give Shoes to Needy



Showing more than 9,000 pairs of assorted shoes in a great pile at the Salvation army headquarters in New York. These shoes will be repaired and distributed to the needy as part of the great work the Salvation army is carrying on.

## Where Harding Will Formally Be Notified



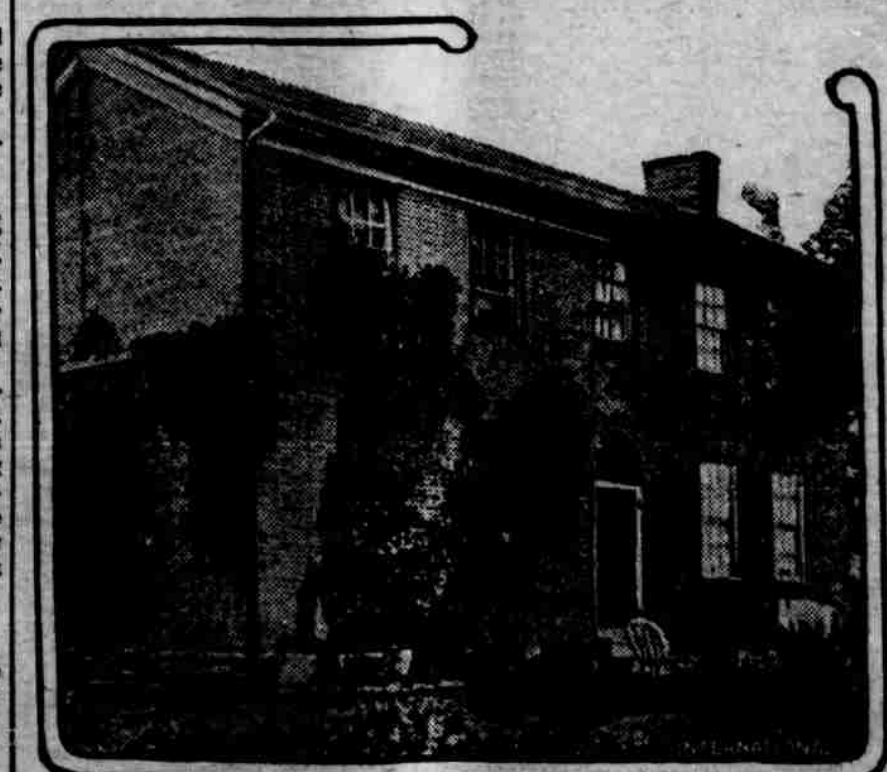
It is expected that the formal notification to United States Senator Warren G. Harding that he has been nominated for the presidency by the Republicans, will be made in White House pavilion, Garfield park, Marion, Ohio.

## Indian Governor Greets Maine Governor



Governor Neptune of the Passamaquoddy tribe of Maine Indians, waiting with his children, Susie and Benjamin, to receive Gov. Carl E. Milliken of Maine, at the historic old Indian battleground at Deering Oaks, when the governor made his formal call on the Indians during elaborate ceremonies which attracted about 50,000 persons. Deering Oaks is near Portland, Me.

## House Where Governor Cox Was Born



The house on a farm near Jacksonburg, Butler county, Ohio, where Gov. James M. Cox, Democratic candidate for president, was born.

## INLAND NORTHWEST

The town of Fallon, Nevada, has nearly doubled in size the past year. Demand for Utah asphalt is increasing and the great deposits in the Utah basin are now being worked on a larger scale than ever.

Indians of the Blackfeet reservation in Montana, held a big Fourth of July celebration at the agency which spread over six days. The affair opened on July 1 and concluded July 6.

Little if any encouragement is held out to woolgrowers by reports coming from the eastern wool centers. Slight demand, and that only for "bargain" consignments, is in evidence.

Henry P. Davidson, former director general of the American Red Cross and member of the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co. has gone to Island Park, Idaho, to spend a two months' vacation with his family.

The public utilities commission of Utah has continued until August 10 the hearing on the application of Wedgwood & Boyd for permission to inaugurate an automobile freight line from Salt Lake to Ogden.

That from one-fourth to one-half of the normal hay crop will be cut this year in the Lovelock valley, in Nevada, is the opinion of many farmers who have commenced haying and of others who are about to do so.

Phillip Anker, a rancher near Lovelock, Nevada, while endeavoring to kick a belt from a pulley on his ranch, got his foot caught in the pulley and had his right leg broken between the ankle and the knee.

Forest officials have announced from Ogden that they propose to split the Wyoming National forest situated in Lincoln county, and add one-half to the Caribou forest in Idaho and the other half to the Bridger forest.

Another pioneer mining man of Nevada passed to the great beyond last week when Charles W. George of Kennedy went to his reward. He was about sixty years of age and had mined at Kennedy for the last twenty years.

Unless some agreement is reached in the controversy between the Utah Gas & Coke company and its plant employees within the next few days, Salt Lake faces a serious shortage, if not a complete interruption, of gas service.

Matthew A. Callahan, formerly of Jackson's Hole, Wyo., committed suicide by shooting while sitting in front of the Amelia Palace at Salt Lake. Callahan, who was one of the best known men in the west, was losing his eyesight.

The state livestock board of Utah has decided to institute a quarantine against Lincoln county, Wyo., sheep and to retain the quarantine against sheep from Idaho and Colorado, already in effect. The quarantine is against scabies.

Registration for the summer quarter at Montana state college at Bozeman has passed the 125 mark. Of the total number registered, about 75 are vocational training students, men sent to the state college by the federal government.

After wading through snow drifts three and four feet deep in the St. Joe forest, while inspecting the ranger stations near Avery, Idaho, Elers Koch, chief of fire protection in this district, has returned to forestry headquarters with the belief that there is no fire hazard as far as this region is concerned.

Convincing evidence that the wild buffalo of Yellowstone national park, the last surviving remnant of the great herds which once roamed the western plains, are on the increase instead of dying out, as was feared, has been obtained in the discovery of a new group in the southeast portion of Yellowstone park.

More than 100 rock chucks were poisoned north of Shoshone, Idaho, one night, by one ounce of strychnine sulphate which had been mixed in one gallon of hot water and soaked into as much alfalfa as was required to absorb it. The alfalfa was allowed to wither for about four hours before being used.

A resident of Tonopah has the carcass of a bob cat, which he found in the slime pond of the Tonopah Belmont. The beast was stiff in death through having imbibed too freely of the cyanide waters of the pond which are as clear as crystal and apt to deceive even a denizen of the forest whose keen scent usually protects him from such perils.

Deviating from his transcontinental peaking tour at the solicitation of Twin Falls, Idaho, people, and making his side trip from Granger, Wyo., by airplane, W. E. (Pussyfoot) Johnson, prohibition advocate, landed at Twin Falls and addressed an audience of about 1000 persons in a local theatre and left by automobile for Shoshone, Wyo., to catch the same train from which he was taken at Granger, Wyo.

Departure from the silver camp of Jellhart, Mont., of agitators who had drifted there from Butte and had organized a strike in the mines, has been marked by a resumption of operations in the silver camp after a shutdown of several weeks.

The first shipment of crushed rock and sand for the Reno-Carson road from the new gravel plant at Lahontan, near Fallon, Nevada, which has just been completed by the Department of Highways of Nevada, was made last week, five cars being shipped out.

## MAID WITH THE SPADE



Here's to the maid with the earth-covered spade, And the garb of the man of the soil, Tripping along to the beat of the song, On the lips of the thousands who toll.

## DAUGHTER OF GEN. WOOD



Miss Louise Wood, daughter of Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood, photographed as she called on "La Savole" to act as driver for the American committee for devastated France.